

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 ACDA-07

EB-07 IGA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /075 W

----- 084818

O R 221750Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2241

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

47*,0 /AMEMBASSY PARIS 2210

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PGOV GV FR IV SG GW

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AGAINST GUINEAN GOVT

BEGIN SUMMARY

1) ANOTHER PUBLIC "INFORMATION MEETING" WAS STAGED AND BROADCAST 22 AUGUST BY PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, INCLUDING DEPOSITIONS BY SIX FOULAH TRIBE CONSPIRATORS. EX-MINISTER DIALLY TELLI MADE SECOND CONFESSION ACCUSING CIA OF DIRECT COMPLICITY IN COUP ATTEMPT. END SUMMARY.

2) TELLI SAID THAT IN 1972 SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD PERSONALLY REQUESTED HIM TO DEFEND US POSITIONS IN AFRICA IN RETURN FOR US SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY TO CONTINUE AS OAU SEC GEN OR FOR SENIOR UN POSITION. SUBSEQUENTLY, BACK IN CONAKRY IN 1974 HE HAD BEEN RECRUITED FOR CIA BY LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR SIAFA SHERMAN. HE WAS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO SHERMAN FOR CIA AND TO

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SAFEGUARD US INTERESTS IN GUINEA. IN RETURN CIA WOULD TAKE CARE OF

HIS MATERIAL NEEDS AND PROMISED DIPLOMATIC, FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR HIS COUP AGAINST SEKOU TOURE.

3) TELLI WENT ON TO DETAIL HIS DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES WITH SHERMAN, WHO ALWAYS PROVIDED THE US POSITION. AT SHERMAN'S HOUSE DURING RECEPTION IN LATE 1975 TELLI FIRST MET CIA OFFICIAL WHO ASSIGNED AS COMMERCIAL OFFICER AT US EMBASSY, AND WHO PUMPED HIM ON INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS. US "COMMERCIAL OFFICER" SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED AT HIS OFFICE ON PRETEXT OF ARRANGING PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FROM US FOR ANOTHER EXTENDED POLITICAL DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA, SOVIET ROLE IN GUINEA, ETC.

4) SEKOU TOURE'S SUBSEQUENT TWO HOUR SPEECH WAS LARGELY A DECLARATION OF WAR UPON THE FOULAH TRIBE (ABOUT 30PERCENT OF GUINEA) WHICH HE IS BLAMING FOR ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY. TOURE THEN ATTACKED BOTH FRANCE AND GERMANY AGAIN ALONG WITH USUAL EXTRAVAGANT RHETORIC AGAINST HOUPHOUET AND SENGHOR. HE DID NOT MENTION TELLI'S ALLEGATIONS. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE WISHED GUINEAN PUBLIC TO HEAR CONFESSIONS OF ARRESTED TRAITORS SOME OF THESE DEPOSITIONS WERE THEMSELVES FALSE AND DESIGNED TO FOMENT TROUBLE WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

5) COMMENT: E/C OFFICER DLOUHY, WHO IS ACTIVE AND WELL-KNOWN IN CONAKRY, IN FACT CALLED UPON TELLI AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST LAST YEAR WHEN TELLI ASKED ABOUT PURCHASE OF U.S. TRUCK. THERE WAS NO POLITICAL CONVERSATION AND DLOUHY DID NOT ATTEND A LIBERIAN RECEPTION OR EVEN MEET TELLI AGAIN.

6) FOR TOURE TO GIVE PUBLIC AIRING TO SUCH ACCUSATIONS SEEMS LUNATIC. EMBASSY IS RELEASING SHARP DENIAL AND I HAVE REQUESTED IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT. SHERMAN WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED DIPLOMAT (NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR AND, HE THOUGHT, HIS FRIEND) AND IS NOW LIBERIAN DEPUTY FONMIN. THIS CERTAINLY IS BEGGING SERIOUS AND NEEDLESS TROUBLE WITH MONROVIA.

6) ONLY 14 HOURS BEFORE THESE ABUSIVE DECLARATIONS I HAD MET WITH MINISTER MOUSSA DIAKITE ON STRATEGIC MATTERS AND PL-480 ALLOCATION (SEPTTEL) AND RECEIVED NO INCLING OF WHAT WAS COMING. CONFIDENTIAL

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ANTICIPATE GUINEAN EXPLANATION WILL BE THAT GOG HAS NOT ACCEPTED SUCH ALLEGATIONS BUT HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM PUBLIC AND TO INVESTIGATE. I HAVE ALREADY TOLD DIAKITE THAT THESE BROADCASTS IN THEMSELVES COMPRISE A POLITICAL DECISION WE CAN ONLY INTERPRET AS UNFRIENDLY. I WILL EMPHASIZE THIS TO SEKOU TOURE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OUR PRIMARY STRATEGIC AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS HERE (SEPTTEL), AND SINCE TOURE'S RANTING IS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY OUTSIDE OF GUINEA, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO

REACT MORE ENERGETICALLY THAN I HAVE PROPOSED, UNLESS MORE ABUSE
IS FORTHCOMING.

7) DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO HAVE A FEW SHARP WORDS WITH GUINEAN
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.
GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS IS ON HIS WAY TO CONAKRY WITH LONG
AND SOOTHING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM GISCARD TO TOURE. DO NOT KNOW
HOW FEDREP PLANS TO REACT TO CHARGES AGAINST THEM.
HARROP

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